

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 03509 211247Z

53

ACTION NEA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PA-01 INR-01 INRE-00 /004 W

----- 037717

O R 211152Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3476

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

UNCLAS BEIRUT 3509

USIA FOR IOP/M, IPS, IBS, INA

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION -- SECRETARY'S MIDEAST MISSION

1. SUMMARY. MARCH 21 BEIRUT PRESS CONTINUES TO BE PREOCCUPIED WITH INTERNAL SITUATION IN LEBANON, BUT SECRETARY'S MISSION, PLO'S ACCEPTANCE OF UNIFIED POLITICAL AND MILITARY COMMAND WITH SYRIA, AND PRESIDENT ASAD'S CRITICISM OF SECRETARY'S MISSION OVER FRENCH TV COMPETE FOR BANNER HEADLINES. SOME PAPERS HIGHLIGHT REPORTS OF NEW ISRAELI PROPOSALS OPTIMISTICALLY, WHILE OTHERS HIGHLIGHT TAH SIN BASHIR'S RECOGNITION OF DIFFICULTIES PESSIMISTICALLY. EDITORIAL COMMENT IS EXTENSIVE AND VARIED. TWO PAPERS COMMENT ON PROPER NATURE OF EXPECTED PARTIAL AGREEMENT. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" STRESSES THAT EGYPT WANTS ANY SUCH AGREEMENT TO PROVIDE FIRM FOUNDATION FOR COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION. LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" URGES ACCEPTANCE OF ANY PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL ONLY AS LONG AS ARABS MAKE NO CONCESSION IN RETURN. THREE PAPERS COMMENT ON ASPECTS OF SECRETARY'S VISIT TO RIYADH. LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR" INTERPRETS HIS STATEMENTS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 03509 211247Z

THERE TO HAVE BEEN DIRECT SLAP AT AMERICAN MEDIA, WHICH IT

VIEWS AS HAVING BEEN ENGAGED IN CAMPAIGN OF THREATS AGAINST ARABS. PRO-LIBYAN "AS-SAFIR" AGAIN SENSATIONALIZES, TODAY ALLEGING THAT AMBASSADOR AKINS IS DISPLEASED WITH SECRETARY'S MIDEAST POLICY AND WILL SOON DISSOCIATE HIMSELF PUBLICLY FROM IT. PRO-SOVIET "ASH-SHA'B" BELIEVES SECRETARY'S STATEMENTS IN RIYADH CONTRADICT EARLIER ONES AND THUS PROVE HIS UNRELIABILITY AS A NEGOTIATOR. FINALLY, TWO PAPERS COMMENT N RELATION OF DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA TO MIDEAST. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" BELIEVES THAT ISRAELIS PERCIEVE LESSON OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN SITUATION CLEARLY BUT ALSO REALIZE THEY HAVE SPEICIAL RELATIONSHIP WITH U.S. PRO-IRAQI "BEIRUT" WARNS THAT SECRETARY MAY ATTEMPT TO COUNTER LOSS OF SOUTH VIETNAM AND CAMBODIA WITH FULL COMMITMENT TO ISRAEL. END SUMMARY.

2. LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR" BANNERS: "KISSINGER PRESSURES ISRAEL. HIS ENTOURAGE EXPECTS SUCCESS." LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR" HEADLINES: "KISSINGER RECEIVES EGYPTIAN ANSWER. CONFIRMATION IN ASWAN: THERE ARE DIFFICULTIES." LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR" HEADLINES: "DIFFICULT DAY IN JERUSALEM AND DECISIVE ONE IN ASWAN. KISSINGER BRINGS NEW ISRAELI PROPOSALS TO SADAT." PRO-SYRIAN "ASH-SHARQ" BANNERS: "EGYPT: NEXT HOURS WILL BE DECISIVE. ISRAEL'S INFLEXIBLE PROPOSALS MAY CAUSE KISSINGER' MISSION TO FAIL."

3. MICHEL ABU JAWDEH, CHIEF EDITOR, OF LEADING INDEPENDENT "AN-NAHAR", WRITES IN FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL: "EGYPT DOES NOT WANT... SO MUCH TO WIN BATTLE OF REACHING AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL AS IT WANTS TO WIN BATTLE OF REACHING SOUND AND LOGICAL BEGINNING TO COMPREHENSIVE PEACEFUL SOLUTION -- AN ARAB-ISRAELI BEGINNING, NOT AN EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI FINALE. EGYPT IS WORKING ON BASIS OF PRINCIPLE THAT ANYTHING BUILT ON WEAKNESS IS ITSELF WEAK. THUS ANY WEAKLY FOUNDED PARTIAL AGREEMENT BETWEEN IT AND ISRAEL WILL WEAKEN GENERAL SETTLEMENT.... ALL THIS MEANS THAT DR. KISSINGER MUST CONTINUE HIS EFFORTS, NO MATTER HOW LONG THEY TAKE, NOT IN SEARCH OF EASY AGREEMENT THAT HE HAS COME TO NEED MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE, BUT IN SEARCH OF DIFFICULT AGREEMENT. FOUNDATION MUST BE FIRM, EVEN IF THIS REQUIRES MORE ATTEMPTS, UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 03509 211247Z

MORE PERSISTENCE, AND MORE PRESSURE ON ISRAEL."

4. NAYIF SHUBLAQ, EDITORIAL DIRECTOR OF LEADING LEFTIST PRO-PLO "AL-MUHARRIR", WRITES: "WE CANNOT BUT DOUBT AND QUESTION KISSINGER'S INTENTIONS AS MUCH AS WE DO THOSE OF ISRAELI ENEMY, FOR THEY ARE BOTH WORKING FOR SAME CAMP. BUT THIS DOES NOT PREVENT US FROM SAYING THAT WE CONSIDER ANY NEW AND UNCONDITIONAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM ANY PART

OF OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES TO BE A GAIN.... IF ISRAELI
RETREAT IS NOT LINKED TO ANY ARAB CONCESSION, NEITHER WE
NOR ANY OTHER ARAB CITIZEN CAN SAY TO EGYPT: 'DO NOT
RETRIEVE YOUR OCCUPIED TERRITORIES', BECAUSE BASIC AIM IS
TO RETRIEVE THE LAND.... IF ARAB SIDE CONTINUES TO BE
HARD-NOSED, I.E. IF IT REJECTS ANY POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, OR
MILITARY CONCESSION TO ENEMY... WE DO NOT THINK
ANYONE WILL OPPOSE EGYPT'S RETRIEVAL OF ITS TERRITORIES."

5. LEADING PRO-EGYPTIAN "AL-ANWAR" WRITES: "DR. KISSINGER'S
STATEMENTS IN RIYADH ARE DIRECT SLAP AT AMERICAN INFORMATION
MEDIA WHICH LAUNCHED CAMPAIGN OF THS AGAINST ARAB OIL
STATES IN AMERICA'S NAME AND ALSO AT 'CERTAIN QUARTERS' THAT
STOOD BEHIND THAT CAMPAIGN.... THIS SLAP MAY ESCALATE
TENSION THAT ALREADY EXISTS BETWEEN AMERICAN SECRETARY AND
HIS COUNTRY'S PRESS,WHICH IS ALREADY TALKING ABOUT WHO
WILL REPLACE HIM."

6. ADDITIONAL EDITORIAL EXCERPTS FOLLOW SEPTTEL.
GODLEY

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS SUMMARIES, MINISTERIAL VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT03509
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750099-0604
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750334/aaaabeag.tel
Line Count: 135
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hartledg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <18 JUN 2003 by chichels, 3.4.X1>; RELEASED <18 JUN 2003 by chichels>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2004 by hartledg>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION -- SECRETARY'S MIDEAST MISSION
TAGS: SOPN, PFOR, XF, LE, (KISSINGER, HENRY A)
To: USIA STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006